

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. In the October 16, 2007 Office action, the examiner stated that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species, and required applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The examiner further stated that no claims appear to be generic. In view of the foregoing, the examiner required election of one of the following patentably distinct species:

- I. Fig. 6
- II. Fig. 7
- III. Fig. 10
- IV. Fig. 16
- V. Fig. 21
- VI. Fig. 25
- VII. Fig. 26

II. Response

In making a response to the October 16, 2007 election requirement, the examiner noted that a response must include **(i) an election of a species to be examined**, even though the requirement may be traversed and **(ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species**.

1. Election of Species

In response to requirement to elect one of the foregoing species, applicant hereby elects the species of FIG. 16 for prosecution in the present case.

Notwithstanding the foregoing election, applicant respectfully submits that not all the listed species are mutually exclusive, and thus the election requirement is traversed. For example, the species of Fig. 10 and the species of Fig. 16 could be combined and are not mutually exclusive.

In addition to the above, the examiner indicated that no claims appear to be generic. However, applicant submits that independent claims do exist. For example, independent claims 1, 8 and 18 are all generic claims. Accordingly, because generic claims exist, restriction of the claims should not be required

2. Identification of Claims Encompassing the Elected Species

In response to the examiner's requirement to identify the claims encompassing the elected species, **applicant hereby identifies the following claims as encompassing the elected species of FIG. 16:**

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 27.

Conclusion

In the event the examiner has any questions concerning this response, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Favorable re-consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Russ Fowler/

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